

May 15, 2014 Community Discussion Meeting - **Downtown YMCA**
"Business, Industry, Commerce and Transportation Interest Areas"
Question Responses and Small-Table Discussion Summary
Attendance - 14 people (plus 3 Committee members and 6 staff)

Identifying long-term investment spending priorities; Determining how best for Wichita to grow over the next 20 years -

QUESTION: Prioritize future City spending within the following three general categories of infrastructure investment (Priority #1, #2, #3) (12 complete responses)

<u>Spending Priority</u>	<u>Categories of Investment</u>		
42% #1	25% #2	33% #3	Maintaining and replacing what the city currently has
33% #1	67% #2	0% #3	Making enhancements to what the city currently has
25% #1	8% #2	67% #3	Expanding the city's current system of public assets

QUESTION: Check future City spending priorities within each of the following types of infrastructure projects (10 complete responses)

	<u>Spending Priority</u>		
	Low	Med.	High
<i>Repairing and maintaining existing local streets</i>	1	2	7
<i>Replacing and maintaining aging water & sewer lines</i>	0	3	7
<i>Maintaining existing parks and recreation centers</i>	3	3	4
<i>Maintaining existing cultural arts and entertainment facilities</i>	3	4	3
<i>Maintaining existing libraries</i>	5	1	4
<i>Maintaining existing transit system</i>	2	2	6
<i>Maintaining existing fire and police facilities</i>	0	3	7

Expanding the city's current system of public assets:			
<u>Spending Priority</u>			
	Low	Med.	High
<i>Constructing the NW Bypass (Goddard to Maize)</i>	8	2	0
<i>Adding new streets</i>	7	3	0
<i>Adding new water & sewer lines</i>	4	1	5
<i>Adding sewer treatment plant capacity</i>	2	3	5
<i>Adding new parks</i>	5	5	0
<i>Adding new fire stations and upgrading police facilities</i>	3	3	4

Making enhancements to what the city currently has:			
<u>Spending Priority</u>			
	Low	Med.	High
<i>Kellogg freeway improvements to Goddard and Butler County</i>	5	4	1
<i>Constructing South Area Parkway Bypass (around south Wichita)</i>	6	2	2
<i>Securing long-term water supply</i>	0	3	7
<i>Upgrading existing parks</i>	2	7	2
<i>Upgrading existing cultural arts & entertainment facilities</i>	4	3	3
<i>Upgrading existing libraries</i>	2	5	3
<i>Major transit system/service improvements (Transit Vision 2013)</i>	3	0	7

DISCUSSION: What projects and investments are most critical to Wichita's future?

- Cultural arts/entertainment (mentioned at 2 discussion tables)
- Long-term water supply (mentioned at 2 discussion tables)
- Public transit improvements (mentioned at 2 discussion tables)
- Projects that reduce the cost of transportation to our residents
- Libraries and parks
- Bike paths and sidewalks
- Fixing our existing streets
- Urban core area infrastructure investments rather than expanding our existing infrastructure
- Projects that will help redevelop older areas of our community
- Projects that reduce divisions between different areas and populations of our city
- Developing renewable residential and community leadership skills

QUESTION: Recognizing that growth in all areas of Wichita is necessary for enhancing the quality of life in our community, rank the following three Wichita growth areas according to which you think **best** supports the future growth, prosperity and quality of life of our community (1=best, 2=second best, 3=third best) (11 complete responses)

Rank

1 Established Urban Core	46% best	54% 2 nd best	0% 3 rd best
2 Downtown	36% best	46% 2 nd best	18% 3 rd best
3 Suburbs	18% best	0% 2 nd best	82% 3 rd best

% of Respondents Currently Living in:

Established Urban Core	54%
Suburbs	36%
Other	9%
Downtown	0%

DISCUSSION: How best should Wichita grow over the next 20 years?

- Encourage growth around centers of education
- Invest public infrastructure where private investment is going
- Pass the full costs of suburban development (e.g. fire, police, water & sewer, roads) to those who develop/live there

Creating an effective infrastructure investment decision-making process for the long-term -

DISCUSSION: What would you want an elected official to consider when making decisions about investing in new capital projects, modifying existing projects, or eliminating existing capital projects?

- Investments that will improve the quality of life for current residents and retain young people through social and cultural investments
- Investments that inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs
- Will our investments attract better paying jobs and create growth within our community
- A vision of how much we can grow as a community and plan/invest appropriately
- Make decisions based upon factual information and data
- Consider all the things on the suggested list provided to stimulate the small table discussions
- Who will the investment decision harm and how will it impact them
- Invest in things that will generate the greatest good for the greatest number of people
- Wichita needs to be proactive and stop short-changing ourselves (identity crisis)
- Don't continue to expand our city when we can't maintain what we already have
- Our appetite to do things is bigger than we can afford to do or maintain
- Projects that implement/follow our existing plans (e.g. Downtown Master Plan)
- Consider privatization or public/private partnership solutions rather than taxation to create new investments
- Needs to be a Countywide dialogue on investment priorities
- Look for more efficiencies in local government operations – consolidate services and government
- Consider the impact of an aging population on our tax base and the tax burden impact on an aging population

Establishing important infrastructure investment decision-making criteria and considerations -

QUESTION: Listed below are important criteria and considerations to guide future community infrastructure investment spending and cost-reduction decisions. Please check the two (2) **most** important and the two (2) **least** important. (13 complete responses)

Importance		<u>Decision-making criteria & considerations</u>
<u>Least</u>	<u>Most</u>	
2	5	Promotes economic growth and job creation
2	3	Advances our community quality of life
0	4	Advances community health and safety
1	5	Creates a place where future generations will want to live, work and play
3	1	Priority as identified in existing adopted plans (e.g. the city/county comprehensive plan)
6	0	Essential for the future physical growth and development of our community
1	6	Demonstrated ability and commitment to maintain the project
1	0	<i>Other</i> - Economic development subsidies
1	0	<i>Other</i> - Promotes profit for special interests without community-wide engagement
0	2	<i>Other</i> - Is this a community need or want
0	1	<i>Other</i> - What are the unseen consequences of this investment

DISCUSSION: What are the most important decision-making criteria?

- Promotes economic development and job creation (*mentioned at 2 discussion tables*)
- Enhances quality of life in our community (*mentioned at 2 discussion tables*)
- Focus investments on infrastructure fundamentals – water and sewer
- Public health and safety
- Is the project a need or a want?
- Review the history of past investments and determine which have had the greatest benefit to the community
- Investments that reinvest in our community and help to build our identity
- Just because citizens want a project or investment doesn't mean it is necessarily a good investment for our community

Any other things or issues needing to be addressed or considered in the Community Investments Plan? -

DISCUSSION:

- Make our city attractive
- Make our city safe
- Make our city more diversified and less homogeneous
- Need architectural review for private and public development projects
- Need to review and update the plan regularly
- Within the 20-year plan, set shorter-term (3 to 5 year) investment priorities that can be reviewed annually
- Consider the feasibility of toll road concept for suburban expressways and bypasses